

Tuesday December 3 1996

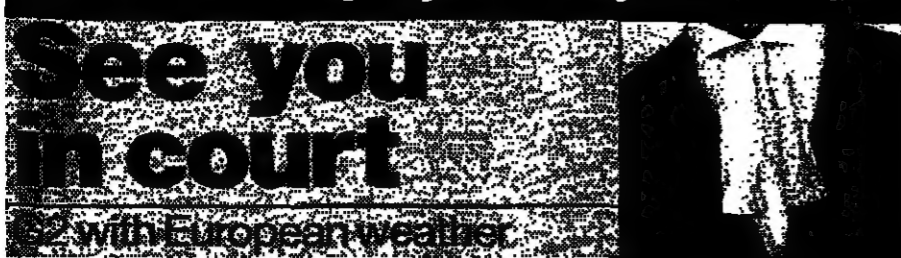
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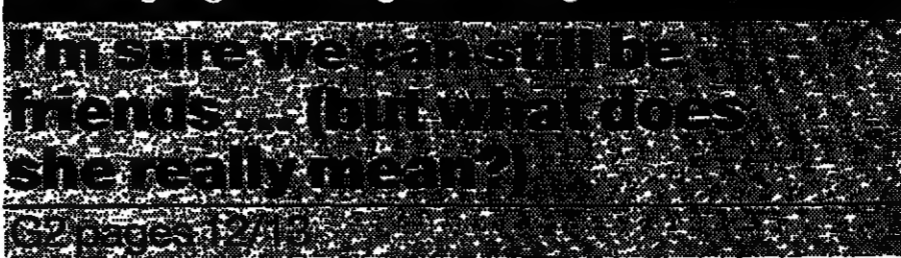
Is Britain becoming litigation crazy?



See you in court

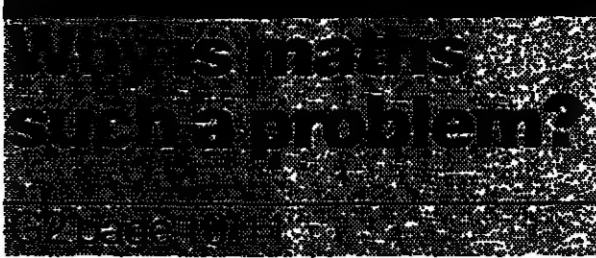
with European legal aid

The language of love gone wrong



Friends, but not lovers

Education



Education



Just 22 years of planning, 12 years of building work and £511m later, the first book goes on to the shelves of the British Library.

John Ezard on yesterday's opening of the final chapter of a great British saga. Page 3

Budget fails to boost Tories

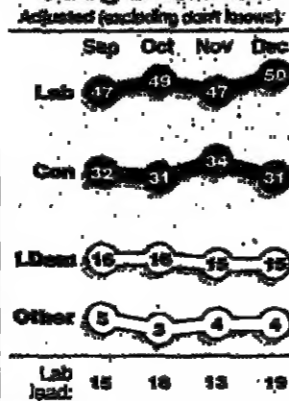
Labour sweeps to 19 point poll lead

Martin Kettle

LABOUR is winning the battle for public opinion over the Conservatives' crucial pre-election Budget.

With five months to go before the general election, Labour has opened up a 19-point lead over the Conservatives on the back of a 3 per cent swing in a single month.

Voting intention



Budget reaction



electoral store. Instead, only days after the Budget, there has been a three-point fall in the percentage of voters who believe that the Conservatives are the best party for managing the economy.

omy, with the Liberal Democrats trailing on 7 per cent. Less than a third of all voters believe that the Budget measures will make either themselves or their families better off, while nearly half believe that they will be worse off after Mr Clarke's

package. And only a quarter of voters believe that the spending measures announced a week ago will improve public services, while more than half believe they will make them worse.

The Tories' difficulties are underlined by the findings for voters who supported them in 1992 but who now intend to vote for some other party.

cent were don't know. Among former Tory voters, the Conservatives' advantage is even more pronounced, with 61 per cent of this group selecting the Tories and only 21 per cent choosing Labour.

where Labour's lead has jumped 9 points since November to stand at 24 per cent. The gap among women has increased by 3 points to 16.

Road rage victim stabbed to death

Sarah Bosseley

A DRIVER bled to death in front of his girlfriend after being stabbed in the face, neck and body in a frenzied attack of road rage.

As they drove home on the A38, they overtook a dark F-registration Ford Sierra hatchback in poor condition, near junction 1 of the M42.

stabbings. "Gestures were exchanged," said Mr Baldaccino. The Sierra is believed to have overtaken Mr Harvey and Ms Andrews in their white G-registered Ford Escort and the two cars came to a stop. Mr Harvey and the driver of the other car got out.

stabbed at least 15 times in the face, neck and body. The attack continued as he fell to the ground. His girlfriend tried to intervene and she was struck and cut and punched to the ground as well. She required a few stitches just above her eye.

Low bridge ahead for rail freight plan

Keith Harper Transport Editor

A PLAN unveiled yesterday to speed the switch of freight from road to rail would require 150 bridges across the English Channel and Glasgow to be raised by up to six inches.

careful work. Railtrack, which would be in charge of the operation, said that arch bridges would require more attention.

The first tests have been completed, and an evaluation has been carried out by Railtrack. Its predecessor, British Rail, sniffed at the idea, which has taken three years to reach this stage.

Inside

Britain: A couple who wed after meeting in a mental hospital tried to kill a taxi driver during their honeymoon, a court was told yesterday. 5

World News: Rwandan-backed rebels in eastern Zaire were making rapid new gains as retreating government soldiers raped and looted. 7

Finance: Big increases in house prices last month sparked fears that Kenneth Clarke could raise interest rates next week to brake the recovery. 11

Sport: Tottenham's return to the Premier League after relegation was again in doubt as they suffered a heavy defeat against Manchester United. 16

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL
To our readers,
Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.
We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites - an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.
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Sketch

Keep a welcome in the suburbs



Simon Hoggart

THERE are only six Tory MPs in Wales, of whom three are ministers, two are ex-ministers, and one has a majority of 19, fewer than the total number of Welsh Labour MPs.

Or Lady Olga Maitland (Sutton and Cheadle), who by a strange coincidence also asked about the foreign investment pouring into Wales.

Hugh Dykes of Harrow East joined forces with Robert Hughes of Harrow West to ask Mr Hague about Labour's proposed Welsh assembly and the disasters it will wreak upon the people of the principality.

A mile-long procession of opposition supporters walked through Belgrade in heavy snow waving at policemen and presenting them with flowers.

The opposition vowed to maintain its campaign until the government acknowledged election victories in 15 cities last month.

Crowd of 70,000 defies Belgrade police as international condemnation puts president on defensive

Serb leader starts retreat

Protest will go on, vow people

Julian Burger in Belgrade and Ian Black in Lisbon

THE Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, was forced on to the retreat at home and abroad yesterday as 70,000 demonstrators marched through Belgrade, defying a threatened police crackdown, and foreign leaders attacked his government for annulling opposition wins in local elections.

A mile-long procession of opposition supporters walked through Belgrade in heavy snow waving at policemen and presenting them with flowers.

The opposition vowed to maintain its campaign until the government acknowledged election victories in 15 cities last month.

As they have done every evening for two weeks, marchers gathered last night outside the offices of the Zajedno (Together) coalition in central Belgrade.



Students offer flowers to Belgrade police as protesters continue to call for the resignation of the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic

Opposition leaders lined up to pour scorn on Mr Tomić's remarks and to turn them to their advantage.

Even normally compliant officials in Montenegro which with Serbia constitutes federal Yugoslavia, were yesterday distancing themselves from Mr Milosevic's government.

He took the opportunity to send a warning to Mr Milosevic over his reported ambitions to graduate from the Serbian to the Yugoslav presidency.

Review

A good deal too soft on the inside

Lyn Gardner

Inside Trading Norwich Playhouse

MALCOLM Bradbury has professed himself disenchanted with writing for television, hence his first play for 30 years.

White's and pass the buck along with the port. Bradbury spins some agreeable jokes about the City, and pokes gentle fun at institutions such as Barings, run like Victorian gentlemen's clubs.

Clarke warns Major over Europe

Policy change on euro sought by sceptics 'quite preposterous'

John Palmer in Brussels and Michael White

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night issued a veiled threat to resign from the Cabinet if John Major buckles to renewed pressure from Tory Euro-sceptics to rule out membership of the proposed European single currency for the lifetime of the next parliament.

Meeting of EU finance ministers with the "copper-bottomed assurances" that British ministers are not disciplined towards a deal for next week's so-called stability pact underpinning single currency membership.

EU ministers are edging towards an emphatic No to the euro, which sceptics believe would be a vote-winner.

Government whips and some cabinet sceptics dismissed the new campaign as media-inspired, but Conservative Central Office — identified by the Daily Telegraph as backing a switch on Europe — was uncharacteristically silent.

Most cabinet ministers, a mixture of rightwingers and pragmatists, are said to back change, with even Michael Heseltine, an ardent European, allegedly "persuadable".

The only problem is that the formidable Mr Clarke would almost certainly resign rather than accept another messy retreat which he believes to be against both national and party interest.

Ahead of an election, that would wreak havoc among moderate Tory voters.

so good", and fellow sceptics claimed that Mr Clarke's cautious behaviour amounted to a victory for their latest campaign.

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in the Tory manifesto, hinted at last night to outflank Labour might trigger his departure, despite the inevitable charges of treachery.

"The idea of changing [the policy] is quite preposterous in my view," Mr Clarke said in Brussels.

Other EU governments are both amused and amazed that so many Tory Euro-sceptics could have seriously supposed Britain would be bound by the EMU project rules.

French boats defy Channel Islands' ban on fishing

TEN French fishing boats defied a Guernsey ban yesterday and entered a restricted area of Channel Islands waters.

French naval helicopter and a Cherbourg coastguard vessel, the Coriandre.

Doctor over the moon as he is cleared of misconduct after flu scam that left footballers sick as parrots and out of the cup

Wweek Chaudhary

A FOOTBALL club doctor who admitted signing false sick notes for eight players to get a crucial cup game postponed avoided the red card yesterday when he was cleared of a charge of serious professional misconduct.

The club was said to have been worried about losing the tie and handed in the eight sick notes to the Scottish Junior Football Association (SJFA) for causing the tie to be postponed.

The GMC was told by Barrie Richards, Dr Muquitt's counsel, that he is not a football fan and that his professional services were called on infrequently by the club.

The committee cleared him but, while Dr Muquitt was celebrating yesterday's result, Shots Bon Accord are still paying the price for the flu fixing scandal.

JOHN PEEL'S VIEW OF FAMILY LIFE. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

صوتنا من الامم

# Lords defeat vetting plan in Police Bill

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**A** SUCCESSFUL all-party rally in the House of Lords last night struck down plans by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to charge for official vetting on the criminal backgrounds of millions of voluntary charity workers.

The 137-135 vote rebellion was led by the former House of Commons Speaker, Lord Weatherill, and came during the committee stage of the Police Bill.

Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat peers, backed by two bishops, voiced the complaints of charities including the Scouts, the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the National Trust and many child welfare organisations that charges would have a devastating impact on the voluntary movement.

The defeat came on a key section of the legislation setting up a self-financing Criminal Records Agency and was the first the Government has suffered in the new parliamentary session.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service has estimated that it would cost £1.25 million to carry out checks on its existing 125,000 volunteers and a further £100,000 a year for new recruits.

The decision to extend criminal record checks to charity workers follows a recommendation by Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre to ensure

greater vetting of those who work with children. However, Mr Howard's decision to make individual volunteers or charities pay contradicts Lord Cullen's report, which says it is "very important that charges are kept within the limits of what organisations can afford". He said that if necessary the Government should subsidise them.

The Home Office Minister, Lady Blatch, said last night it was officially estimated that the £40 million to £200 million cost of the checks on up to 20 million volunteers would fall on the taxpayer or other job seekers if the charity exemption was allowed to stand.

"The vast majority of volunteers will be happy to pay this modest fee. Free checks for volunteers would double the cost of certificates for the others who would have to pay, some of whom are unemployed," said Lady Blatch.

Lord Weatherill, backed by several Tory peers, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Bishops of Coventry and Lincoln, said the charges would place an intolerable financial burden on charities which depended on volunteers.

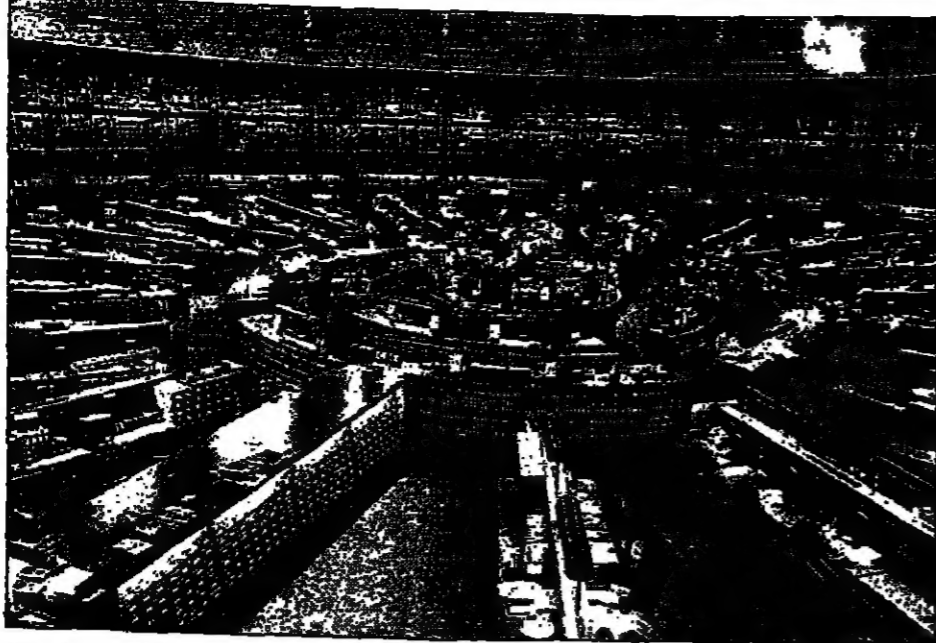
"It is accepted good practice that volunteers should not be out of pocket by volunteering," said Lord Weatherill, who argued that the charges would undermine the Government's attempts to encourage the voluntary movement.

There would be intense pressure on charities from insurers and trustees to make the voluntary checks mandatory to ensure they were not left open to accusations that they had not taken all possible steps to protect the children or vulnerable people in their care.

A Home Office spokeswoman said last night that ministers would consider the impact of the amendment. The House of Lords will next consider the Police Bill in January.

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The famous domed British Museum reading room at Bloomsbury (left), and the new British Library building at St Pancras

PHOTOGRAPHS: FRANK MARTIN (left) and ALAN REVELL

# £511 m library gets a book at last

## John Ezard on a welcome new passage in a 44-year saga of delays and increasing costs

**I**T TOOK 44 years and \$511 million to get the first little book three-quarters of a mile from the British Museum to its new home in Euston Road, central London, yesterday.

At 9.30am the first of 5,900 van journeys drove it, sealed like other books in bubble-wrap, to an unloading bay. There staff brought its pallet by lift to the basement, where librarians took over.

They unpacked it, working to a computer-generated plan. Then — conventionally and with some reverence — the chief executive, Dr Brian Lang, put it in its place.

The book preserves a medieval folk song which asks: *What's the life of a man, any more than a leaf? For a man has a season and why should he grieve?*

This lyric of mutability now lives in a computer-maintained temperature of 16C, with 80 degrees of humidity — conditions theoretically calculated to preserve its pages for ever, as a good library should try to do.

And so the Oxford Book of English Traditional Verse became the first volume to go on the shelves of the British Library: a small, inaugural moment of British success in a project which has so far had

the image of a mega-British failure. Although the book is out of print, it is not rare. The cost of preparing the ungainly site at St Pancras to receive it was beyond the price of rubles. But the British Library had begun to do its job.

Finishing the job — the biggest book move in history — will take a daily staff of 40 the equivalent of three working lifetimes. Their task of shifting 12 million items in 600,000 crates is due to last until 1999, the year the building fully opens.

The first readers are planned to arrive at the end of 1997. Observers view this forecast, like so many others from the library, as possibly optimistic.

"It's a complex process — not like stacking the shelves of a supermarket," Dr Lang said.

The library's cargo, including Magna Carta, the Gutenberg Bible and Shakespeare's First Folio, will travel to 200 miles of white metal shelving by unmarked van to discourage smash attempts. The most sizeable treasure is the six-foot Klencke Atlas, the smallest a thumb-sized New Testament.

Oxford's folk songs anthology was in a first batch of 2,500 British, European and

Canadian works. On hand to greet it was a batch of determinedly upbeat literati — including the crime novelist P. D. James.

"The library will be a temple to books, a great centre for learning and creativity and sheer reading pleasure," she said.

"After long delays and all sorts of difficulties and controversies we are here very happily to see the books put on the shelves."

Harold Pinter, gazing at the pile about which Prince Charles asked "How can you tell it's a library?" said: "It is a very elegant building and I look forward to seeing thousands of people using it."

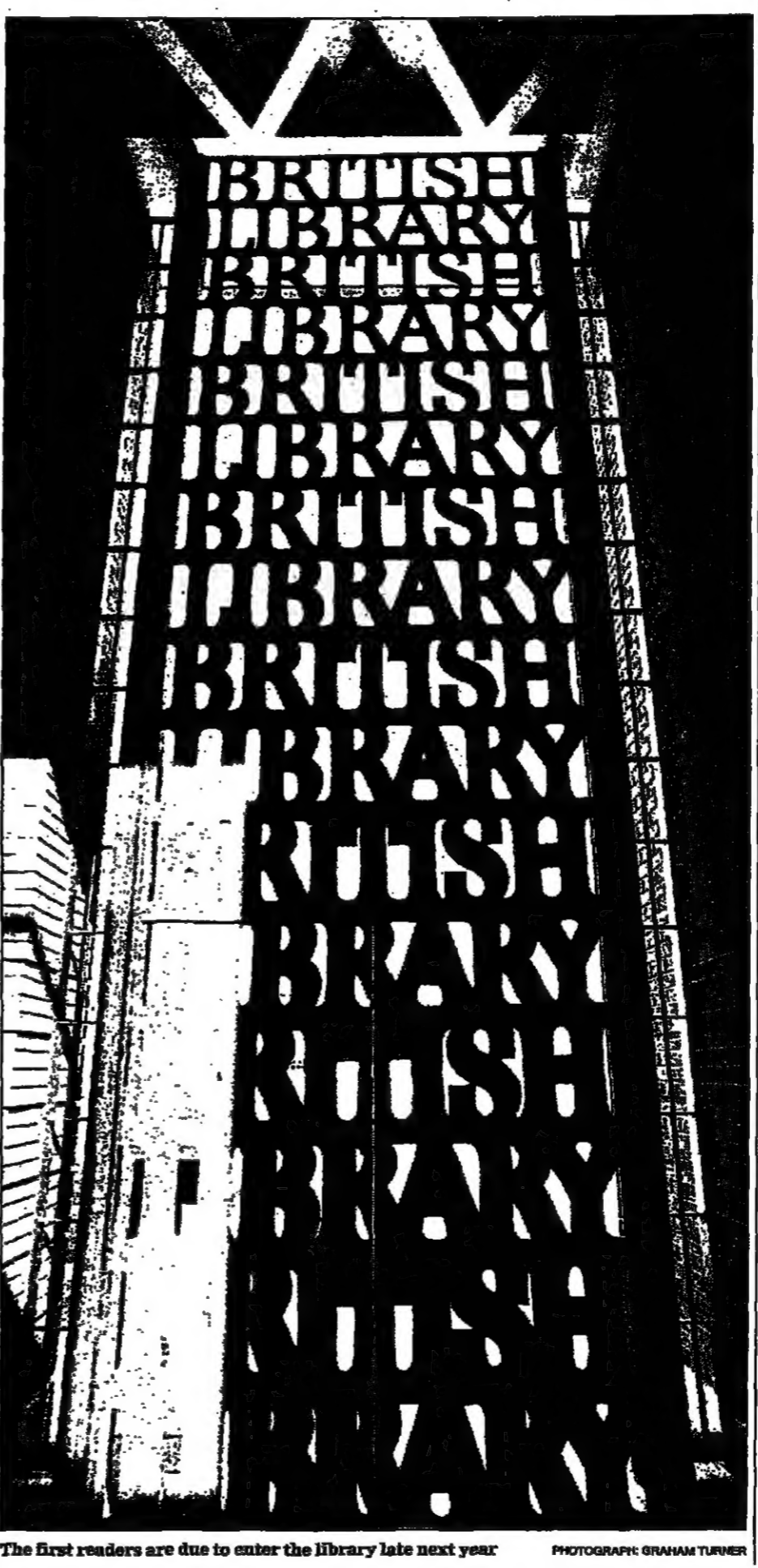
The historian Lady Antonia Fraser, his wife, said: "This is a very exciting and significant step. I shall hope to be one of the first to come and work here."

Dr Lang called it a flagship. "The problems are behind us now," he said.

Visitors yesterday noticed a somewhat glossed-off section in the rare books reading room.

It was designed decades ago to mimic the din of a typing pool, in the era before planners foresaw quiet computer keyboards.

If Dr Lang's confidence about the future is vindicated, the section will stand as a memorial to the library's old planning disasters, just as the installation of the Oxford book is meant as a symbol of its determination to succeed now.



The first readers are due to enter the library late next year

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

### Chapter and verse

● Controversy first surfaces in 1952 over a former County of London plan to extend the British Museum's library facilities to nearby Bloomsbury Square. A decade on, the row heats up amid claims that 1,000 Londoners will be forced to abandon their homes.

● By the late 1960s the Bloomsbury Square plan is shelved as the Government considers other sites.

● A new decade and a not-so-new plan — a new British Library to be built on the seven-acre Bloomsbury Square site within 13 years for £36 million, architect Colin St John Wilson.

● The first hint that delay will be inextricably linked with the project comes in 1973 as councils repeat objections to the Bloomsbury site and the cost, treble the original estimate, threatens the scheme.

● A year on the Government concedes defeat and selects a larger site between Euston and St Pancras stations. Work is due to



Colin St John Wilson: asked to design library in 1970s

start in 1979 with a completion date of 1990 and a total cost of £164 million.

● By 1979 estimated costs spiral above £200 million; leading academics question the wisdom of the scheme.

● In 1982 construction begins on Britain's largest civic building, with plans for the time for 350 miles of shelving and space for 20 million books. By the late 1980s the design is under fire for being too modern,

too concrete, too box-like and basically too hideous.

● Amid criticism by the National Audit Commission of the Government's handling of the project, the taxpayer is forced to fork out a further £150 million in 1990, bringing the total to £450 million.

● In 1991 the provisional 1998 opening is set back a year; mechanical shelving is spewing books on to the floor, ceilings are too low and wiring is faulty.

● Another year, another Government inquiry slates the new £500 million cost. The completion date creeps forward from 1996 to 1997.

● Yesterday, as British Library chief executive Brian Lang proclaims problems are a thing of the past, the first two crates of books arrive, 5,000 literary works from the British Museum shelves. With the humanities reading room set to be opened by the Queen next November, the last crate of books will be unloaded in 1999 — if all goes to plan.

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# 32 have hospital check in disease alert

Geoffrey Gibbs on latest moves in the Cardiff university meningitis outbreak

**T**HIRTY-TWO more students showing possible signs of meningitis were admitted to hospital for observation in Cardiff yesterday as the names were released of the two 19-year-old students at the University of Wales who have died from the disease.

They were Ann-Marie O'Connor, a first-year law student from Acton, west London, and Samantha Milroy from Stockport, Cheshire, who was in the first year of a pharmacy course.

Of three other students being treated for meningitis, two are recovering and the

third is critical in intensive care.

Health officials stressed last night that no further cases of the disease had been confirmed.

Eight of those admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure were about to be discharged.

In the Commons, the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, said it could take several weeks before a full investigation into the outbreak was complete. Meanwhile, he was confident health and university authorities were doing everything possible to prevent further spread of the infection.



Heidi Mann, who was visiting her student sister, gets an injection at one of the halls of residence

He told MPs that the Welsh Office's chief medical officer had visited the campus to assess the situation.

"Contrary to some press reports, she indicates that the atmosphere, though tense and understandably so, does not demonstrate any panic. The students are behaving very responsibly," he said.

The outbreak is centred on the University Hall residential building about four miles from the main campus. Around 90 per cent of the 770 students living at the hall have now been vaccinated and a programme has been extended to include guests who spend one or more nights

at the hall in the past two weeks.

Worried students beset for information assistants from the National Meningitis Trust outside the university's students' union building in the centre of Cardiff yesterday.

Louise Thomas, one of four volunteers manning the trust's mobile vehicle, said that there had been a constant stream of young people seeking advice about how the disease was passed on and whether they should be vaccinated.

By yesterday evening, students had taken more than 2,400 leaflets giving advice about the disease.

After stopping at the van to pick up an information leaflet, Gabriella Orologa, a second-year journalism student from Greece, complained that students were not getting enough information from the university.

"We don't know what the extent of the problem is and I think everybody should be careful. I asked my GP if I could have antibiotics and he said yes, but when I called the university they said, no, unless you live in University Hall."

"I am not in any sort of panic but if I can do anything to protect myself I will."

Karen Smith, a second-year

undergraduate studying ancient history, had meningitis as a baby and wanted to know whether she might have developed an immunity.

"They said it was possible I might have built up an immunity, but there are no guarantees."

"I think people have been feeling a bit lost up to now," she said after talking to a trust volunteer.

She added: "It is best to have the leaflet to know what the symptoms are. I am feeling reassured."

Lectures and seminars were continuing to take place as normal at the university yesterday.



Victim: Samantha Milroy, studying pharmacy



Victim: Ann-Marie O'Connor, law student

## French police check on 'cheap' British labour

Paul Webster in Paris

**F**RENCH police are investigating a cross-Channel traffic in cheap labour for building work, and say that British subcontractors involved are flouting French and European social protection laws.

The traffic was highlighted in a court case where one subcontractor said he could find unemployed Britons who would work in France for £3 a day, less what he took off them for accommodation.

Yesterday a letter was published sent from a British firm to French construction companies saying that Britons were ready to work at least 50 hours a week, including weekends, and forgo overtime.

Police said yesterday that at least 14 cases of exploited British work gangs were under investigation in the Pas de Calais, the Lille area, and Normandy.

Most were similar to a case at Argentan, Normandy, where a British subcontractor, Robert Butcher, was fined more than £20,000 and given a year's suspended jail sentence for flouting French and European labour laws.

Court officials said that Mr Butcher, who gave his address as Dunsfold, Surrey, did not

appear at the hearing after being released from prison on bail equivalent to his fine. But they quoted remarks he made to an examining magistrate after gendarmes checked workers on a road site at Argentan and found six Britons working illegally.

Mr Butcher was accused of failing to provide social security and pay slips, and failing to pay taxes. He told the magistrate that it was easy to find jobless men ready to work for 30 francs a day, £3, because of the "British social climate". He would take a cut to cover accommodation. Mr Butcher said he recruited in pubs, and toured sites in France offering workers for hire. He told the magistrate his methods were "common practice" in Britain.

The prosecution claimed that the use of British workers undercut the price of subcontracted work by 60 per cent compared to offers made by legitimate French firms.

The letter was published by the communist daily L'Humanité, which coupled it with an attack on John Major for refusing to accept European Union work legislation.

The letter was from a recruitment firm in Hovingham, Norfolk, which appears to have gone out of business or under cover. Headed Dornas Bau Limited, and signed by a

manager called Danny Cuomo, the letter was sent to the Lyon branch of the big public works company, Dumex. It was allegedly a copy of letters sent to other large firms. Although French legislation restricts working time to 39 hours, the letter, written in French, said that "our workers are ready to work at least 50 hours a week — working Saturday and Sunday is no problem and, in fact, they prefer this."

The firm, which asked to be paid weekly, promised to take care of lodgings and transport but assured French employers that the "appropriate legislation concerning these workers is British law. French law cannot be used in opposition". As a postscript, the firm said it charged £15 francs, £19, an hour per recruit but gave no indication of how much workers would get.

The employment ministry said the conditions contravened many regulations. Special permission had to be obtained for overtime, and this was more difficult since the European Union introduced a maximum 48 hour week in November. "The claim that British labour laws can be applied here is nonsense," an official said. "Only territorial legislation is valid unless it is overtaken by European rulings."

## 'If you are going to get paid rubbish you might as well stay here where you can understand the language'

**T**REVOR Davis would not cross the Channel to meet the wages of his French colleagues at the hands of an unscrupulous employer because he is a man of principle. The principle is that he does not like the French, writes Gary Young.

"I've never been keen on them really. They think too much of themselves. Like with those lorry drivers and that strike two weeks ago. I don't think I could stomach working with people who carry on like that," said the fitter, who was working on a building site in Guildford yesterday.

In the city, which is only a short drive away from the address subcontractor Robert Butcher gave the French

courts and where he may have done much of his recruiting, it was difficult to find a labourer yesterday who would have been willing to take up his offer. "If you're going to get paid rubbish you might as well stay here, where you can understand the language," said Mr Davis.

Xenophobia aside, there were few qualms about the morality of his offers; only shock about the rates of pay he was offering and the general inconvenience of moving abroad.

"I'm quite happy just plodding along here really but I suppose we all have to look out for number one. I don't think we would like it if they did it to us but that's

life isn't it," said Bryan, an electrician.

Their reluctance might explain why employers like Cuomo and Butcher recruited not on work sites, but in pubs. For while most labourers insisted that they would never be lured away by an employer like Butcher themselves, nearly all of them knew people who would and have.

The big surprise was not that they were going abroad to be exploited but that Butcher's cargo should have headed for France, when wages in Germany and Scandinavia can undercut the local rate and still be relatively high.

"You've just got to be young and desperate really. If you've got no family and you're not trained, any amount of money sounds good I suppose," said Mr Davis. "I mean £33 a day might not mean much to me and you but it's about a week's dole money and you're working," he said.

## Judge expresses shame over race attack

Denis Staunton in Berlin

**A** GERMAN judge said yesterday he felt ashamed on behalf of his community as he jailed two young rightwingers for a racist attack that left a Birmingham building worker paralysed for life.

Mario Foetter, aged 24, and Sandro Ristau, aged 18, were sentenced to eight and five years respectively for reckless driving and causing grievous bodily harm to Noel Martin, aged 37, who was

paralysed from the neck down. The car carrying him and two other Britons hit a German and overturned after the Germans threw a rock through the rear window during a car chase outside Mahlow in the eastern state of Brandenburg last June.

Judge Claus Proxilla said at the Potsdam court: "We are ashamed of the many cases of stupid xenophobia in Brandenburg."

Mr Martin, who is due to be discharged from hospital in Shropshire this week, said he

was pleased the defendants had been found guilty, but added: "Even if they were sentenced to a hundred years, I'd still be in a wheelchair. The point is that I've got a life sentence." Mr Martin can now claim compensation from the German criminal injuries compensation board.

He hopes to return to Mahlow next year to confront his attackers. "I just want to ask them why they did it because I don't understand hating people because of their race or colour."

I have trouble with my speech. But it's my mum who needs someone to talk to.

When I was born with cerebral palsy my mum cried. She thought she had done something wrong. By calling Scope's Helpline my mum found somebody who would listen, for as long as she wanted to talk. They've been brilliant. For both of us. You can talk to them too on 0800 626 216.

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سكوبا من الاله

Vivek Chaudhary on trail of terror in Hampshire

# Honeymoon ended in kidnapping



Mark Slater, the taxi driver kidnapped and stabbed by the Byelongs

## Couple met and married in psychiatric unit

**A** COUPLE met and married in a mental hospital and then while on honeymoon kidnapped and stabbed a taxi driver and kidnapped a six-year-old boy, a court was told yesterday.

Douglas Byelong, aged 26, and his wife Julie, aged 26, also stabbed and killed a dog. They were ordered to be detained in a mental hospital by Mr Justice Mantell after they admitted at Winchester crown court the kidnap of the taxi driver, Mark Slater, an offence of affray, and the kidnap of the boy.

The court heard that the couple met at the psychiatric unit of the Whittingham hospital, near Preston, Lancashire, where both were patients. They married last May. Richard Onslow, prosecuting, said: "They met and married in a mental institution. He took her away on honeymoon."

"In the next few days he decided a number of people should be killed, and the result of that decision was a trail of carnage they left behind them."

Byelong, a former Broadmoor patient diagnosed as having a paranoid psychosis, was released into the community soon after his marriage. His wife absconded two months later to join her husband on a "honeymoon" when, on account of her mar-



Landlord Lee Turland with his father, Arthur, at the Boot Inn from where the boy was kidnapped

riage, she was given permission for her half-hour walk in the hospital grounds to be extended to one hour.

Mr Onslow told the court that the couple, both armed with knives, kidnapped Mr Slater, aged 29, after calling his cab to a pub near Petersfield in Hampshire, last July.

They forced him to drive to Salisbury where he was stabbed and his vehicle taken. They drove to a Hampshire village, Shipton Bellinger, where they stabbed to death a white cocker spaniel and then kidnapped a six-year-old boy, who had been playing on his bike.

The boy was released after pursuing police used spikes in the road to stop the car, and arrested the couple.

Mr Justice Mantell made an interim hospital order against the woman and made another order against her husband ensuring that he is not released.

"Mr Mantell told him: 'It is not my intention to recount the catalogue of wicked, terrifying things you have done. It is essential you should not be released unless exceptional circumstances arise.'"

The court was told that the taxi driver has not been able to work since the attack, while the boy had nightmares and had lost trust in "small women", including his mother.

Julie Byelong has been in and out of psychiatric hospital since her late teens. She had been resident at the Whittingham hospital for more than a year when she met Byelong, a former printing engineer. He had first been sectioned in 1968 following a conviction for arson.

After three years in Broadmoor maximum security hos-

pital, he was transferred to a rehabilitation centre in Colchester, but was sent back to Broadmoor after escaping in 1991.

Julie's father, William Cardwell, said that when his daughter met Byelong the family thought that the relationship might help relieve her mental condition.

"At that point I thought he had given our Julie some help," Mr Cardwell said. "She seemed much better, both mentally and physically."

Rosemary Tallow, whose cocker spaniel, Bramble, was killed, said yesterday the couple also attempted to get into her home.

Their marriage took place at Preston register office and was attended by hospital staff and family.

Julie's father, William Cardwell, said that when his daughter met Byelong the family thought that the relationship might help relieve her mental condition.

"At that point I thought he had given our Julie some help," Mr Cardwell said. "She seemed much better, both mentally and physically."

Rosemary Tallow, whose cocker spaniel, Bramble, was killed, said yesterday the couple also attempted to get into her home.

## Schoolgirl 'kick killers' get two years

**T**WO teenage girls who kicked and killed another girl aged 13 in a fairground fight were yesterday sentenced to two years' detention.

Louise Allen fell to the ground and suffered repeated kicks to her head, one of which killed her, after intervening in the fight in Corby, Northamptonshire, in April.

Her assailants, aged 13 and 13 at the time, were sentenced at Nottingham crown court after admitting manslaughter at a previous hearing.

The dead girl's mother, Ellen Allen, was in court yesterday. Afterwards she said she had expected the two to serve at least four or five years in detention.

The girls, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were

told by Mr Justice Hadden that an act of wicked violence had resulted in a totally unnecessary death. "The message must be clear to all those just as young as you two, that to put the boot in to someone on the ground is to commit an act which the court cannot treat lightly."

The death shocked the pupils at Louise's school, where she was described as a well-liked, happy-go-lucky girl.

She went to the funeral, a mile from her home, on April 29, the court had heard previously. During the evening the 12-year-old girl picked a fight with one of Louise's friends. As a crowd gathered, Louise tried to pull the girl off her friend, and the 13-year-old grabbed Louise by the hair. The court was told she then fell to the ground and was kicked. A witness heard someone shout: "What have



Louise Allen, and fellow pupils paying tribute to her after her death in a fight in April



One girl was arrested hours after leaving the funeral, the other the next day. According to a pathologist, Louise had seven bruises on her head but only the largest was fatal; it was "an unlucky chance" such a kick had killed.

and since the death had shown remorse. The night at the fair had been a silly schoolgirl scuffle in which normally no one would have been hurt, said Martin Heslop QC, for the 13-year-old.

"She is extremely distressed and throughout the time she has been in custody struggled in an attempt to come to terms with what has happened. She has shown a sincere and great remorse."

James Hunt QC, for the 12-year-old, said her father had written to her school saying she was being bullied. Mr Hunt told the court: "She is and was a little girl."

Last night Father Niall Sheridan, chairman of the governors of Louise's school, said that pupils had needed counselling after the death, and he expected many to seek further help following yesterday's events.

## Insurers pledge to resist lawsuits on exam results

**L**OCAL authority insurance companies yesterday promised vigorous resistance in the courts to litigation by pupils seeking compensation from their schools after failing to achieve good enough exam results.

Zurich Municipal, the largest local government insurer, said it had a duty to policyholders to avoid out-of-court settlements which might encourage a further rash of speculative claims by disgruntled students.

Jack Rabinowitz, a London solicitor, disclosed at the weekend that he was bringing cases on behalf of two 17-year-olds who claim they were let down by their respective schools. Both of the schools concerned had been criticised by the inspectorate for "failing to provide a satisfactory education".

This provoked anxiety among local authority leaders and school governors that their public liability insurers might settle to avoid costly litigation. Earlier this year the Royal SunAlliance recommended a £30,000 payout to another client of Mr Rabinowitz, who claimed damages for the bullying he allegedly experienced at Shene School in the London borough of Richmond.

A spokeswoman for Zurich Municipal said the company was confident it could persuade the courts that schools should not be legally liable for pupils' exam results.

"We don't believe there is a solid foundation in law for such cases. It is our duty to our policyholders to avoid opening the floodgates to similar actions. We would defend them in the courts."

A spokesman for Royal SunAlliance said: "We would defend actions of this sort.

Each one would depend on the circumstances, but as a matter of principle we would contest them."

The National Governors' Council called on the Department for Education and Employment for urgent clarification of the legal position. "A whole range of cases is lining up and will be tested to the limit at the expense of schools which cannot afford the time or the money to contest them," it said.

The Legal Aid Board corrected reports that Mr Rabinowitz had already secured legal aid for the two 17-year-olds in the latest case.

Applicants had to prove financial eligibility and show there were reasonable prospects of the case succeeding. The board "cannot differentiate between applicants because we think the decision to grant legal aid will be unpopular or lead to similar claims," it said.

David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said the law relating to school inspection might have to be changed. It was not acceptable that a report revealing faults at a school could be used for legal action against it.

The Office for Standards in Education said its officials were re-examining the wording of reports on failing schools, but no immediate changes were likely.

Julian Gizzi, head of the education law department at City solicitors, Beachcroft Stanley, said the case was an example of a worrying trend towards nuisance litigation.

Clive Lewis, a barrister specialising in local authority law, said claims for damages over exam results would stand little chance of success. "It is likely the court would take the view that there is already a regulatory system designed to address a school's failings — namely, the Ofsted inspection process."

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## Diana's plea for young on street

**D**IANA, Princess of Wales, launched a Christmas campaign for the charity Centrepoint yesterday to save young runaways from the perils of living rough on the streets.

She told an audience at the charity's annual meeting in London that children as young as 11 were now homeless. Many had run away from physical and emotional violence while some had fled because of sexual abuse.

She described young people as Britain's "greatest natural resource", and praised the work of the charity for giving them "somewhere to stay and someone to listen".

Centrepoint is one of the six charities Diana has chosen to remain patron of after her decision to withdraw from public life.

She is a frequent visitor to homeless shelters, and has often taken her sons, William and Harry, with her.

Yesterday Centrepoint disclosed figures which show a quarter of homeless young people had been in care. Many had experienced physical or sexual violence, missed drugs or alcohol, or had been in trouble with the police.

Some 11 per cent of children under the age of 16 who ran away had slept rough, while others had stayed with friends or



Diana at the Centrepoint meeting

people they did not know. The charity described the statistic as alarming.

Victor Adebowale, chief executive of Centrepoint, also pointed to a rise in the number of homeless young black people, and said he was increasingly concerned about the increase in teenagers who arrive at Centrepoint hostels with drug and alcohol problems.

Mr Adebowale said his vision of a moral society was one where young people were valued and not "dismissed as a cause of moral decline".

Later the princess made use of a clause in her divorce that allows her use of her ex-husband's London home, St James's Palace, and staged a reception for the English National Ballet.

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**STOP THE RISE OF FASCISM IN EUROPE**

**REPEAL ALL ANTI-ASYLUM LAWS**

**Lobby of Parliament - 2.30 to 4.30pm**  
(Committee R.14 House of Commons)

**Public Meeting at 6.30pm**  
Westminster Central Hall - Assembly Room  
Storeys Gate, London SW1. (Nearby Tube: St. James Park)

**Thursday 5th December**

Speakers include:

Diane Abbott MP	Ellecn Atkins
McKhat Bilku	Mark Fisher MP
(Wiltshire Hospital Worker)	
Nicholas Kent	Tony Kushner
Colin Lindsey	Vanessa Redgrave
(President, Coventry Trades Council)	
Rev. Theo Samuel	Martin Sherman
(Church Commissioner for Racial Justice)	

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# Serbia's conjugal despots



Mirjana Markovic and Slobodan Milosevic heirs to a long tradition of rulers blindly united in despotic tandem

Like other couples who have ruled oblivious to their country's fate, Slobodan Milosevic and Mirjana Markovic may be heading for a fall, writes Julian Borger in Belgrade

ALL the Belgrade demonstrations of the past few days, the climactic moment came when the words Slobodan Milosevic were yelled through a microphone. The mass booing and jeering sometimes lasted more than 10 minutes. The baying for his overthrow could be heard for miles.

This is a personalised revolt against a regime which has for years resembled a court more than a modern political system. The top jobs are distributed among family friends and state resources are diverted according to personal whim. All political life revolves around Mr Milosevic and his wife Mirjana Markovic — "Slobo and Mira" — childhood sweethearts turned middle-aged despots.

In fact, he has not addressed his country for more than a year. One of the students' principal demands has been for him to say something, anything, to his disgruntled people. His wife evokes even more profound hatred. She spent the past two weeks, at Federal Yugoslavia's expense, in India promoting her latest book. Between East and South, a collection of her weekly magazine musings about life, love and politics.

Like the offspring of many dictators, their children are decadent losers. Their daughter, Marija, runs a disco in Belgrade. Each of her many boyfriends has been rapidly promoted, just before the relationship broke down.

Marko Milosevic, the 22-year-old prince in the Serbian court, is a failed racing driver who has crashed 10 cars. He owns a nightclub called Madonna, and recently told an interviewer that he was addicted to music, guns and cars.

Mr Milosevic, a former banker whose rise through the socialist ranks was eased by his wife's family contacts, has been silent throughout the turbulent past fortnight.



Students march through Belgrade yesterday, undaunted by snow and police warnings against further demonstrations

my passion," said the youth Mirjana Markovic calls "my wild young mustang".

In October a journalist called Miroslav Eric was picked up and badly beaten by the police the day after he printed an article about Marko's business dealings.

After a six-year flirtation with nationalist rhetoric, the language of the Serbian court has reverted to familiar Marxist jargon. For the purposes of the November election campaign, Bosnia was treated as a far-off country to which Mr Milosevic had brought peace.

But the embodiment of "the united progressive forces of the left". The phrase refers to the alliance of the Serbian Socialist Party (SSP) and the United Yugoslav Left (JUL). The latter is not so much a political party as a vehicle for Ms Markovic and her friends, who are steadily gathering the reins of economic and state power.

Although JUL on its own rarely scores more than 2 per cent approval in opinion polls, and won only a handful of local council seats in November, it now controls most Serbian ministries. It is principally an economic venture; its leading members may have been former Marxist professors, but they have proved themselves remarkably adept at making money.

Mr Milosevic's indulgence of his wife and her old university friends has weakened his position. The armed forces hate JUL. The police have resisted coming under its control, but that battle is not over.

Breislav Grubacic, a Belgrade political analyst, thinks Serbia's ruling couple may actually believe in what they are doing.

"I think in their minds, they are remaking history, and they believe they can make communism work this time. They've had their war, the partisans have won again and we will enter paradise," he said. "They have made the whole country surreal."

## Moscow wins nuclear pledge

San Black in Lisbon

NATO will publicly promise not to deploy nuclear weapons in former communist countries which join the alliance in an attempt to defuse opposition from Russia to Nato's expansion eastwards, it emerged last night.

Nato officials at the Lisbon summit of the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said yesterday, after an agreement was reached on revising a key treaty on arms control, that the pledge would be made in Brussels next week.

## Chirac demands Nato transfer

trooping allied forces in the Mediterranean, including Bosnia and the shores of the Middle East and North Africa — to a European.

Diplomatic sources said it was the second personal letter Mr Chirac had sent Mr Clinton on the issue, and followed a rebuff of his first approach. Germany, Italy and Spain have backed the call. — Reuters.

US diplomats are saying publicly that the revised treaty is not intended to "compensate" Moscow for Nato expansion, but in practice the Russians will be able to use it to restrict deployments in former Warsaw pact countries.

## Poles learn about the joys of tofu

Dean Murphy in Warsaw

REMARKABLE thing is happening in the land of smoked sausage, pork cutlets and deep-fried potato dumplings — being healthy is becoming fashionable.

But the Polish turnaround has raised hopes. "We are witnessing the beginning of an improved lifestyle, and it says no signs that habits will change back," said Neil Collinson, a scientist with the WHO.

## Hats off to disarmament

MEMBERS of the Guatemalan Voluntary Defence Committee salute the national anthem before handing in their arms in Aguacatan, one of the last units to demobilise.

Women in feather hats, men with ponytails, grandmothers and businessmen filled a nutrition class sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventists in Warsaw.

A granola recipe flashed up on the wall. Eyes widened. Jaws dropped. Fens took to paper like fat to fire. Tofu was next. Then sugaring jam. By the evening's end, 60 new foot soldiers in Poland's nutrition revolution had entered basic training.

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## World news in brief

### Civil rights veteran was FBI informer

THE US civil rights movement has been stunned by the release of FBI files which show that a leading civil rights lawyer later appointed to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, was an informer for the FBI.

### Havel's tumour removed

CZECH surgeons removed a small malignant tumour from the president, Vaclav Havel, and took out half of one lung yesterday, but said he might be back at work early in the new year.

### Reprieve for 'sacked' general

RUSSIA'S senior military commanders were in a state of confusion last night after a top general, said to have been sacked in disgrace by President Boris Yeltsin, was apparently reinstated.

### Moldova elects president

A LEADING former communist, Petru Lucinschi, was elected president of Moldova after beating the former Soviet republic's first post-independence leader in a run-off vote on Sunday.

### Farmers cut Greece in half

FARMERS yesterday cut Greece in half, using hundreds of tractors to tighten their grip on road and rail links to stop all north-south traffic.

### Aborigines to claim Darwin

ABORIGINES plan to lodge a land claim covering the city of Darwin in the Northern Territory — the first such demand to take in an Australian provincial capital, the aboriginal Northern Land Council said yesterday.

### Russians take space walk

TWO Russian cosmonauts ventured out from the orbital station Mir for a space walk yesterday, installing more solar panels in an effort to put an end to occasional power failures.

### Cows love rubber waterbeds

A DUTCH rubber factory is producing waterbeds for cows, the daily De Volkskrant said yesterday.

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# Finance Guardian

## Clarke's sterling dilemma intensifies

# Pound breaks mark barrier

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**T**HE Government's dilemma over the strength of sterling intensified last night as the pound powered through the key DM2.60 barrier against the German mark in New York trading.

The pound rose by just over a penny against the mark on the City's foreign exchanges, but just failed to climb through the DM2.60 level, closing at 2.5989.

However, renewed pressure on the mark on Wall Street meant the pound was standing at DM2.61 in afternoon trading in New York.

The further appreciation in sterling will sharpen the debate when the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, meets the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, next week to discuss monetary policy.

Mr Clarke is aware that a further increase in base rates could cause more problems for industry by pushing the pound still higher, but will be under pressure from Mr George to take steps to cool the domestic economy.

Evidence of the dual nature of the economy emerged from two sets of figures released yesterday. The monthly report from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply indicated that the strong pound may already be having an impact on the manufacturing sector.

The domestic factors pushing up the pound were compounded by remarks from the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer.

In an interview with a German magazine, Mr Tietmeyer hinted that he would prefer to see the mark weaker, a sentiment backed up by the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and the French President, Jacques Chirac.

Two of Britain's biggest mortgage suppliers yesterday announced they will raise their rates following Abbey National's decision to increase charges to its 1.6 million borrowers for the first time in two years.

Other abuses highlighted yesterday in Ictis's latest monthly report include: Suggestions of sex with animals on a "contact club" service provided by Cord Communications of Liverpool; "I like anything with four legs. Anything", ran part of a message; Suggestions of sex with minors on a message carried by Internet Directory of Bedford.

Mr Clarke has pledged that there will be no return to boom and bust for the British economy. Not under his stewardship, at least.

As Mr Clarke acknowledged in his budget address, Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England will keep him steady. For many in the City that means interest rates will have to go up. Indeed, hardliners reckon the Chancellor should not pussy-foot around with a quarter of a percentage point here or there, but go for a full one point rise.

But experts dismissed worries in some quarters that the combination of more expensive property — prices rose 0.5 per cent in November and were up 7.3 per cent on a year ago according to the Halifax — and dearer mortgages would put a brake on the housing recovery.

Two of Britain's biggest mortgage suppliers yesterday announced they will raise their rates following Abbey National's decision to increase charges to its 1.6 million borrowers for the first time in two years.

Gerry Marsh, Halifax spokesman, said November's house price rise confirmed his belief that the market recovery is sustainable. He predicted bank base rates of 7 to 7.5 per cent and mortgage rates of 8 per cent plus towards the end of next year.

Northern Rock, Britain's 7th largest building society, is to increase its standard variable rate by 0.5 per cent to 7.49 per cent on January 2. Adam Appleby, the society's executive director, said: "Our new rates reflect our belief

that the Chancellor will fix rates by at least a further 0.25 per cent over the next month or so."

The Coventry, the UK's 12th largest society, is to put its standard rate up by 0.25 per cent to 7.55 per cent on January 1.



Drivers from among 200 picked to drive BMWs shipped to Singapore for delegates at the five-day World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting next week. PHOTOGRAPH BY REXA

# Watchdog casts fresh eye on chat calls



**T**ELEPHONE regulators have ordered an emergency review of the booming business in "virtual" chatlines and proposals for action are expected next month. The urgent inquiry has been triggered by a spate of horror stories involving huge bills run up by "chat addicts".

Teenage children, babysitters and family relations are reported to have clocked up vast sums on unauthorised chatline calls, and the regulator Ictis — the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Information Services — has had reports of bills running to £5,000. In addition, concerns have been raised about "adult" material discovered on some services.

Live chatlines involving multiple callers were banned in 1992, but from last year a number of companies found a way around the rules. They built a small delay into the conversations, thus classifying their product as a message service.

This delay has been shaved to a split second on some services, hence the phrase "virtual chatline". Ictis has received more than 450 complaints about virtual chatlines during the past 18 months, 273 of which have come in during this year to date.

Other abuses highlighted yesterday in Ictis's latest monthly report include: Suggestions of sex with animals on a "contact club" service provided by Cord Communications of Liverpool; "I like anything with four legs. Anything", ran part of a message; Suggestions of sex with minors on a message carried by Internet Directory of Bedford.

# Former chemicals mogul and finance chief convicted on MTM false accounting charges

**R**ICHARD Lines, one-time chemical-industry mogul and self-described ex-member of the elite Special Boat Service was yesterday found guilty of fraudulently inflating his company's worth by £250 million. An Old Bailey jury convicted Lines on two counts of false accounting and one count of making false statements.

Sir John Harvey-Jones had appeared as a character witness for Lines, a one-time colleague at the chemical giant ICL. Sir John told jurors Lines had a "hands-on approach" and was "a very hard driver". But the court found Lines

had propped up the profits of his MTM chemical company by shuffling money and using false documents to conjure up records of sales that had never happened. His former finance director, Thomas Baxter, was convicted on one charge of false accounting and one of making misleading statements, but cleared on a second false-accounting charge.

The convictions mark the end of four-and-a-half years of investigation and prosecution by the Serious Fraud Office and North Yorkshire Police. Lines, aged 60, and Baxter, aged 45, will be sentenced later.

Lines, an ex-merchant seaman, built up MTM after a career as salesman-manager at ICL. Floated in 1986, MTM grew rapidly, but on March 2, 1992, it announced its accounts would be delayed and profits would be short of the £23 million expected by the City.

# Tories back heavier lorries

**H**EAVIER lorries on the roads, raising the current limit from 38 to 44 tonnes — and the blood pressure of transport campaigners — were approved in principle by the Government yesterday.

John Watts, the transport minister, said the Government was seeking views on whether to allow six-axle lorries to operate from either January 1999 or as late as 2001.

Ministers are also seeking views on the possibility of speeding the use of 44-tonne lorries to carry containers to and from ports, provided this can be done without any increase in lorry miles.

## Notebook

# Eddie's steady eye fixed on Ken



Edited by Mark Milner

**C**HANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke has pledged that there will be no return to boom and bust for the British economy. Not under his stewardship, at least.

As Mr Clarke acknowledged in his budget address, Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England will keep him steady. For many in the City that means interest rates will have to go up. Indeed, hardliners reckon the Chancellor should not pussy-foot around with a quarter of a percentage point here or there, but go for a full one point rise.

It could be argued that pushing base rates up to 7 per cent would restore a degree of balance to the economy. It would certainly knock back consumer confidence — and with it, consumer spending. It could also, by removing any thought of further rate rises, take some of the steam out of sterling. That would help those of Britain's exporters already feeling the pressure of a very weak pound.

On the other hand, Mr Clarke made it clear that he has designed his budget package with the intention of avoiding any further increase in interest rates. The Abbey National, for one, has taken the argument on board. It has raised its mortgage rates to catch up with the last rise in base rates, but had held off until now in case a further hike was part of Mr Clarke's budget planning.

## Bad reception

**R**EVENGE may be a dish best consumed cold, but not in the City. The reaction to the news from Racial that its military radio business would stray into the red this year was swift and savage, knocking more than 18 per cent off the share price.

The timing of the downturn at the tactical radio business, which accounted for almost one-fifth of last year's profits, is certainly unfortunate. Racial's heavyweight position in the global market in the military radio business was always going to come under

# Davies rejects 'Peak Practice'

Mark Milner  
Deputy Financial Editor

**T**HE deputy governor of the Bank of England, Howard Davies, yesterday rejected radical proposals which would give the Treasury the leading role in financial supervision in the UK.

Mr Davies described the arguments behind so-called "Peak Practice" concept of regulation where two commissions — one covering systemic risk and the other relations between banks and securities houses — had not yet developed sufficiently for them to be regulated effectively by the same institution.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 1.9955	France 6.5280	Italy 2.000	Switzerland 2.1
Austria 1.774	Germany 2.5125	Japan 1.0540	South Africa 7.26
Belgium 5.182	Greece 398.00	Netherlands 2.2950	Spain 212.40
Canada 2.22	Hong Kong 12.71	New Zealand 2.2995	Sweden 11.15
Cyprus 6.7585	India 60.22	Norway 10.55	Switzerland 2.13
Denmark 5.2700	Ireland 5.723	Portugal 253.00	Turkey 105,470
Finland 7.70	Ireland 5.7	USA 1.6475	USA 1.6475

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Tennis

Stars find no appetite for Beckerfest

Stephen Barley in Munich

ONLY a short time ago the organisers of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup were crowing ostentatiously about the line-up for the dollar-laden men's end-of-season tournament...

Not only was this city going to host six top American players, but also planning to give a rousing send-off into retirement to Sweden's Stefan Edberg...

Next year it will be switched to September, more or less coinciding with Munich's famously beery Oktoberfest...



Davis delight... France's Arnaud Boetsch silences critics of the cup

DAVID HURN

when Samppras defeated the 20-year-old German.

The ATP Finals, in which the world's top eight players compete, will doubtless survive even if it has to switch countries...

The IFP president Brian Tobin came out strongly in Malmö for an unchanged Davis Cup competition, after attacks by figures he dubbed "malcontents"...

As Noah eloquently stated, the Davis Cup is not about individuals or contracts but about players coming together as a team...

With Tim Henman in Munich and Greg Rusedski rested, Britain's top man is the world No. 166 Danny Sapsford...

Sport in brief

Tyson's record rake-in

MIKE TYSON may have lost his world heavyweight title but he tops the 1996 earnings table by a knockout margin...

Cycling

Miguel Indurain resumed training yesterday, dashing widespread speculation that the five-times Tour de France winner was about to retire.

Hockey

The seven-times champion Scotland, the most successful club in the history of the FA Cup, have drawn Premier Division opposition for the third successive round...

Racing

Caumrue chaos leads to Plush win for Harvey

THE pantomime season opened at Wincanton yesterday when a series of bizarre incidents enabled 'Too Plush' to come home the luckiest of winners...

But they were also hampered by The Caumrue and The Mine Captain who continued to finish at a distant second...

Newcastle runners and riders with form guide

Table listing horse and rider names, weights, and race details for Newcastle. Includes sections for 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, and 5.00.

Southwell (All-weather Flat)

Table listing horse and rider names, weights, and race details for Southwell. Includes sections for 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, and 6.00.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks including Kelso, Wincanton, and Southwell. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks including Southwell and others. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks including Southwell and others. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks including Southwell and others. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Newcastle, Wincanton, and Southwell.

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# From the pits to the pinnacle

Local prizefighters or Test cricketers, England's coalminers have always nurtured sportsmen. **Martin Wainwright savours Work Hard, Play Hard, an exhibition celebrating the age-old link**

THE minister said you whistled down a mine-shaft, and Sir Laurence said you shouted "Hey George!" whereas the local cricketer, even a spinner, were the days of Britain versus the Rest of the World fixtures, and it wasn't the Rest of the World who used to win.

"Yes, coalmining wasn't just at the heart of Britain's economic greatness," said the Minister for Sport Iain Sprouat. "Just look what it did for our football, rugby, cricket, even soccer. These were the days of Britain versus the Rest of the World fixtures, and it wasn't the Rest of the World who used to win."

He paused in front of a panel on coal and soccer: two miners who played for Manchester United in 1968 and were caught in the Munich air disaster. Tommy Taylor (killed) and Bill Poulkes (survived) smiled over his shoulder at other displays on mining heroes of cricket, rugby league and boxing — as well as pigeon-racing, nipsey, and knurr-and-spell.

Reared on this, miners would dominate local team games; a Rotherham United fixture card from the late Forties shows eight miners in the first team, six in the reserves and another eight in the third XI.

Along with the minister, he paused to look at the Yorkshire and England caps, blazer and virtually complete wardrobe of Johnny Wardle, who left Wath Grammar School for a fitter's job at Hickleton Main because the 6am-2.30pm hours fitted better with fixtures than the nine-to-five white-collar life in the pit offices.

The exhibition, which includes have-a-go displays of quoits, hopscotch and knurr-and-spell (or pitman's golf), also carries reminders of sport's amateur days: miner Billy Batten caused a national sensation when Hull paid him £14 a match in 1913 after paying a world-record rugby league transfer fee of £500 to buy him from Hunslet.

Days in the sun... knurr-and-spell, also known as pitman's golf, was a colliery favourite (above). Other exhibition highlights include a rare picture of Billy Batten, whose wages caused a rugby league sensation in 1913, and (below) bare-knuckle fighting which survived until nationalisation in 1945. PHOTOGRAPHS: DON McPHEE

## Cricket

### Russell sacrificed again in England balancing act

THE die is cast and, for the two Test matches in Zimbabwe at least, Alec Stewart will keep wicket and England will play five specialist bowlers. This means Jack Russell, so often sacrificed because of the inadequacies of others, will once again be a fringe figure.

It is precisely one year since Russell broke the world Test record with 11 catches against South Africa in Johannesburg and then kept Mike Atherton company for 276 minutes during their heroic record operation. This regard, however local, is terribly tough on him and he will be distraught.

England have not officially announced their side for the Tests, of course, but unofficially they have it: the 11 names chosen to play against Mashonaland today in the opening first-class match of the tour. The coach David Lloyd admitted as much when he said: "We've shown our hand: Stewart keeping wicket and three seamers with two spinners is our intended policy for the Test matches."

### Australia v West Indies: second Test, fourth day Taylor takes low risk

IT MAY be luck or it may be intuition, but Mark Taylor has the knack when it comes to the surprise bowling change. In Brisbane he had turned out to a frontline bowler but to Ricky Ponting to complete the over for the injured Steve Waugh. It brought Jimmy Adams's wicket in the first innings here as was Greg Blewett's huge inswinger which dispatched Sherwin Campbell when the likelier bats had failed to do so.

Australia's captain reached into the box of tricks once more yesterday evening to canny effect, producing not Michael Kasprzok or Jason Gillespie as Glenn McGrath's new-ball partner, nor even Shane Warne, a move which would have been regarded as progressive. Instead Mark Waugh removed his hat and shades and set down some covers, albeit the highest score of the match, Taylor might have appeared generous, particularly with the potential Lara factor. This, though, has not been a pitch for rapid scoring either, and he knew that no Test side batting in the fourth innings on the Sydney Cricket Ground has ever made more than 276 to win.

Campbell and Samuels had reduced the deficit by 27 at stumps and were relieved to have seen out the day, not least because they had restored some credibility, not to say sanity, to the West Indies performance. Proud men, pillars of the side through the glory years, have been watching this match with disbelief at times, but yesterday they were almost apologetic as Walsh's men produced arguably West Indies' shoddiest performance in the field in living memory.

### Tour match: ACT v England A Back to Adam

THE day did not start well for Adam Hollis, England A's captain led the first ball, a long hop, straight down long-leg's throat. Yet it was Hollis's late intervention with the ball which caused the Australian Capital Territory captain Mike Veletta to enter the referee's notebook, and lifted England's hopes of a sixth consecutive victory after several hours of frustration.

He brought himself on half an hour before the close with Veletta and Bruce Ears repairing the damage done by two quick wickets for Peter Such that had taken his match tally to seven. At 137 for two, ACT were only 55 runs behind, and their hopes of salvaging a draw very much alive. Then Veletta, who had batted beautifully for 63, edged a ball low towards first slip. Craig White flicked it up and Warren Hegg claimed the catch. Veletta was given out but stood his ground for several seconds before exchanging choice words with the umpire and throwing his bat to the ground on the way to the pavilion. The 33-year-old former Test player has been reported to the match referee but his previous exemplary disciplinary record may save him from serious punishment. Hollis struck a second

## Ice Hockey

### Under-strength Steelers' chance to peak

when they entertain the Nottingham Panthers only three days after defeating them 4-1 in Nottingham. "That victory and Sunday's 4-1 home tie with Ayr, achieved despite a heavy injury list, followed Thursday's 3-2 overtime win at Newcastle. "Going into Sunday's game I'd have been happy with five out of six [points], getting towards the end of it I wanted all six," said the Steelers manager Alex Dampier. "But if we win the return with Nottingham, that'll be a real morale lifter for the guys having to fill in right now."

The absentees include the ex-NHL forward Ken Priestley, who sustained a knee ligament injury two weeks ago, and Jamie Van der Horst, Nicky Chin and Steve Nemeth, all on the long-term injury list. Sheffield last week applied

to the DISE for a work permit for the 30-year-old Canadian Jason Lafreniere, who has played more than 150 NHL games for New York Rangers, Quebec and Tampa Bay. "We just don't know how long Priestley will be out, a knee injury can be any length of time," said Dampier. "We're hoping Christmas but Kenny could be longer."

Only two wickets fell on the fourth day of this match, although a nasty injury to Matthew Elliott meant that he retired hurt only 22 short of a maiden Test century and will take no further part; he needs immediate knee surgery. Australia for the most part batted in restrained manner, not helped by the pace of the pitch, adding only 137 before tea for the loss of Waugh, who made 67. But Michael Bevan (62) and Blewett (47 not out) forced the pace with a fourth-wicket stand of 65 in 12 overs, and then Blewett with Ian Healy (22 not out, and 272 in the series for once out) produced a rapid 36 before Taylor pulled the plug at 312 for four.

Test match declarations, particularly when a team has a lead in a series, are almost always timed to ensure that there can be only one winner.



Painful end... Matthew Elliott retires hurt

## Team talk

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Sports Guardian

SOCCER

Emerson in Brazil and Boro back in crisis

Michael Walker

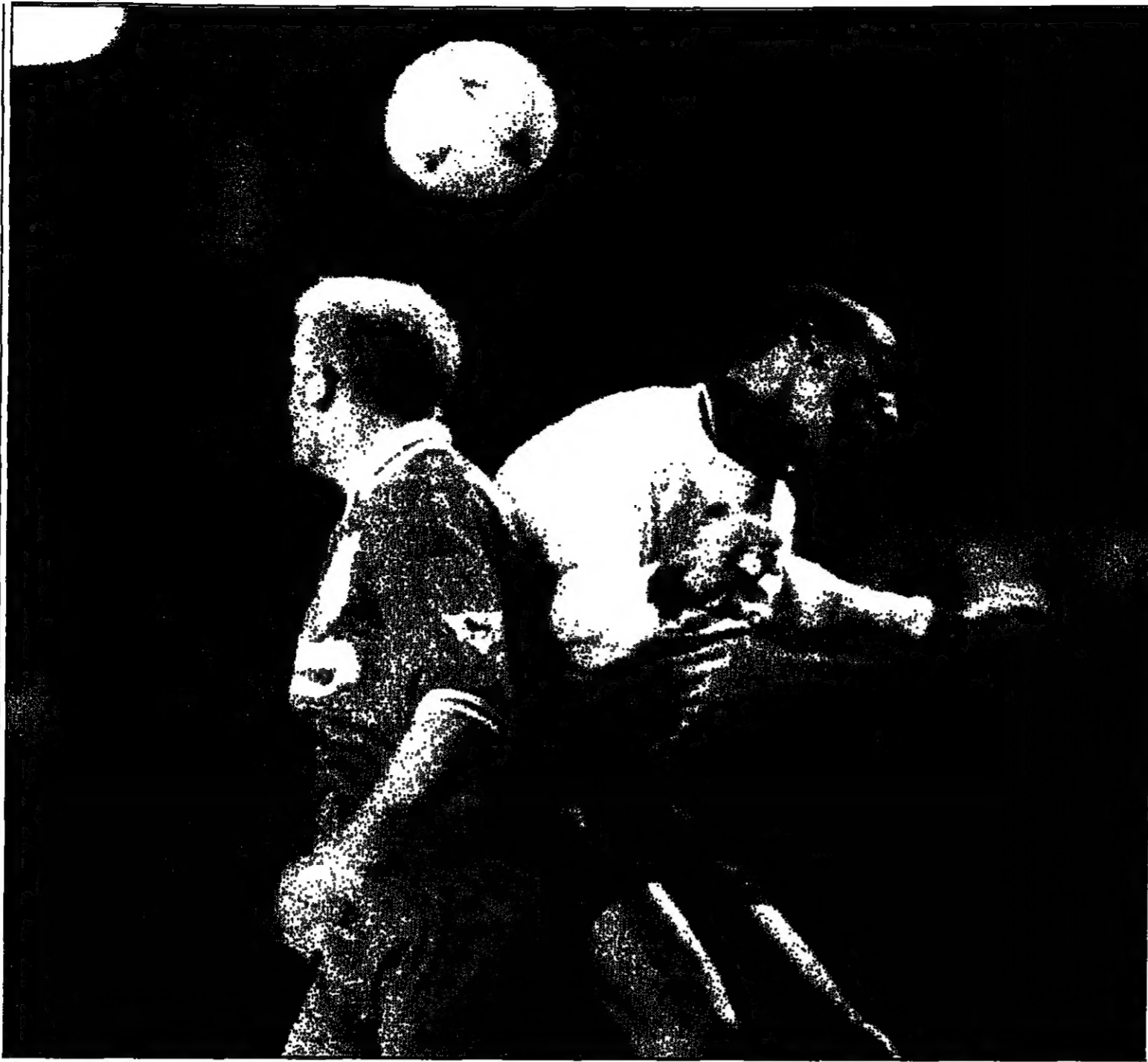
THE saga of Emerson's future with Middlesbrough took another twist yesterday when it emerged that the midfielder will miss tonight's Premiership visit of Leicester because he is back in Brazil.
The reason is again his 21-year-old wife, who is reluctant to settle in Middlesbrough. Last week Emerson admitted in an interview with the Guardian that she was unhappy but, dismissing all speculation about his future as a mixture of press speculation and misunderstanding, he said he expected her to return to England on Sunday.

However, sources close to the player said he received a telephone call on Friday to say she did not want to leave Brazil. Emerson was due to make his return from a three-match suspension at the Riverside stadium tonight in a game for which Middlesbrough have seven players injured, including Juninho. However, instead of naming him on the team sheet yesterday, Bryan Robson was again forced to talk about the Brazilian's future.

"There are only two ways this can work: Emerson plays for us or he's back on a beach in Brazil," said the manager. "He signed a four-year contract here and he's not for sale."

Later Robson added: "His wife is over there and he was given permission to go and pick her up. He will probably be back tomorrow and then we can sit down and talk about the problems. We will try in every way to make his wife content here. We will help in every way we can, but that's as far as we can go." Emerson had seemed hopeful that the furor would die down and that Middlesbrough would sign his cousin Fabinho, formerly of the Portuguese side Belenenses. Fabinho has trained with Boro for 10 days and is married to Emerson's wife's sister.

The club thought such a move would be helpful to everyone, but now they must be considering how long this embarrassing tale can drag on. Meanwhile, Robson admitted that Middlesbrough have bid for Nadal, Barcelona's £3 million defender. "There is a deadline in Spain for signing players of December 7, though, so unless Barcelona get someone in very quickly then it could be difficult for us," he said. "We have put in a bid. Barcelona haven't accepted it but we are continuing to monitor the situation."



Heads you win... Liverpool's Mark Wright beats Chris Armstrong to a high Tottenham centre at White Hart Lane last night. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 2

No respite for Spurs

Russell Thomas

TOTTENHAM responded spiritedly last night to the Bolton debacle but were undone by a side level on points with the leaders Arsenal. A slick finish by Michael Thomas, recalling the verge of his days elsewhere in north London, was followed by a freak goal by Steve McManaman. Gerry Francis, who had spent Saturday at home with a temperature of more than 100, was even better under the collar yesterday after talk of a confrontation with his captain Teddy Sheringham after the Bolton game and rumours that the England striker was on the verge of leaving Spurs. "Complete and utter rubbish," was the manager's angry response. The one predictable absentee from his ranks was the luckless Darren Anderton, down this time with suspected knee-ligament trouble. Better news for Spurs was the announcement that Steffen Iversen had signed from Rosenborg for £2.7m. The 20-year-old Norwegian striker will join on Thursday, subject to a medical. The crowd soon conveyed their hunger and Spurs responded eagerly. They forced the early pace but Liverpool made the first dangerous break when McManaman sprinted on to a deflected Nielsen pass. Sinton unceremoniously brought him down and was booked. White Hart Lane held its breath as Berger, playing just behind Fowler, took the free-kick and unleashed a 25-yard shot that Walker dived to his right to save. The pattern was repeated seven minutes later but this time deep in Liverpool territory. McManaman committed a vengeful trip on Sinton, and the winger responded by curling in a free-kick that was

fumbled by the advancing James. Armstrong centred from the right and the Liverpool goalkeeper was grateful when a deflection diverted it into his hands. The opening had promised much more than the untidy stalemate into which the game then descended. There was abundant movement and a host of good intentions, but clear-cut chances were few until the final seconds of the half. Two back-Headers by Armstrong gave Spurs encouragement. The first flew just over the bar, and the rushing Sheringham just failed to connect with the second from close range. Then Ruddock, deep in his penalty area, dallied over a clearance and had to lash the ball wildly towards Fox. The winger's cross was met smartly by Sheringham, whose low shot flew wide. Deeper disappointment was etched in Spurs' faces at the interval. Seconds before the break, an angled pass from Barnes found Thomas, who timed his run perfectly to slip alongside of Calderwood and Howells and fire a low drive unerringly past Walker's right hand into the far corner. Muted boos accompanied the Spurs players of the pitch and the limping Armstrong did not return. Allen taking his place. Three minutes later, a deep insult was added to this injury when McManaman turned Carr and sent in a speculative shot from 25 yards. Walker sprang to his right in anticipation, only to see the ball strike a divot just in front of him and bounce over his unstretched hands. The Tottenham goalkeeper permitted himself a useful smile before checking the big screen to convince himself he had really been beaten in this bizarre manner. Liverpool could have added a third goal midway through the second half when Berger sprinted down the left and delivered a precise low cross

that McManaman wastefully side-footed wide of Walker's left hand post. To compound Spurs' depression, a seemingly legitimate back-header by Sol Campbell, who beat James to the ball in the 67th minute, was disallowed for shoving.

Tottenham Hotspur: Walker; Carr, Calderwood, Campbell, Wilson, Fox, Nielsen, Howells, Sinton, Armstrong, Sheringham. Liverpool: James; McAteer, Wright, Ruddock, Bab, Sisson, McManaman, Thomas, Barnes, Fowler, Berger. Referee: G. Poll (Tring).

of his diminutive, bearded figure bending over Ferraris and Maseratis, logging chassis numbers or spotting tiny modifications. He would be the first to notice when BMW moved their oil cooler from the left to the right of the engine, and he could tell his readers the exact angle at which Colin Chapman canted the engine of the Lotus 16. He loved and understood good engineering, and he thought the men who designed the cars were just about as important as the glory boys who drove them. But he was also, in his flinty way, a romantic, and the technical details always came after the report of the race. He never hid his admiration for the courage and skill of the best pilots, to the extent that his 1988 book The Racing Driver still represents the most sophisticated and unbiased basis of the craft, with conclusions which hold good in today's very different conditions. He was interested in finding out what made a racing driver different from you or me, and he realised that the preparation of those qualities might vary between individuals of comparable achievements. His descriptions of watching a great driver lift a team's morale with a single brilliant practice lap provided a humanising view of the sport. As the Continental correspondent of Motor Sport, he spent the summer driving from one race to another, from the great temples of Monza, Monaco, Rheims, Spa and the Nürburgring to lesser meetings at Syracuse, Bordeaux, Bari and Naples. In those days there was little print or TV coverage of grand prix racing, and Jenkins' lengthy, close-set reports, published weeks after the event, represented the authorised version. In superficial terms, I suppose he was a bit of an snob. There are many photographs

The first and proper voice of motor racing



Richard Williams

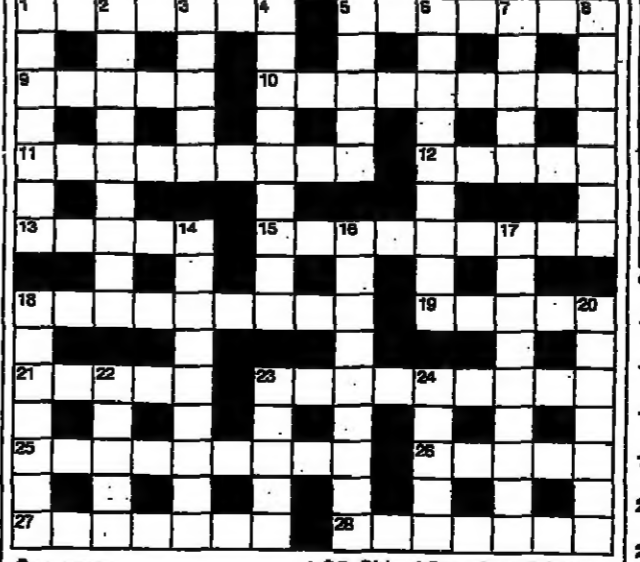
IT IS COMMON with other organisers, the Automobile Club von Deutschland decided to reduce the German Grand Prix from its former powerful position down to a 'milk-and-water' type of event by reducing the distance from 22 laps of the Nürburgring to 16 laps, a mere 342 kilometres... Those words were the first motor racing journalism I ever read. The man who wrote them, almost 40 years ago, thought that a race lasting two hours and 20 minutes, over a 14-mile circuit featuring 175 corners lined with trees and ditches, contested by men in fireproof helmets, string-backed gloves and cotton polo shirts, in cars without seatbelts, roll-over bars or fire extinguishers, could reasonably be described as "a milk-and-water type of event". His name was Denis Jenkinson, and he was the doyen of British motor racing writers. His death at 75 was announced by my colleague Alan Henry on yesterday's obituary page. Naturally enough, Henry and other memorialists concentrated on Jenkinson's most celebrated single achievement, which was to navigate the Stirling Moss during a famous victory in the 1956 Mille Miglia, when they averaged 97mph for more than 10 hours over public roads from Brescia to Rome and back. But for me, as for many others, Jenkinson's contribution was far more profound. Over a period of years his writing implanted a set of beliefs that together defined what constituted a motor race and what it took to be a proper racing driver. As the Continental correspondent of Motor Sport, he spent the summer driving from one race to another, from the great temples of Monza, Monaco, Rheims, Spa and the Nürburgring to lesser meetings at Syracuse, Bordeaux, Bari and Naples. In those days there was little print or TV coverage of grand prix racing, and Jenkinson's lengthy, close-set reports, published weeks after the event, represented the authorised version. In superficial terms, I suppose he was a bit of an snob. There are many photographs

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THERE was no style or grace in his prose, which was as functional as he thought good engineering should be. But in his hands, the craft made you feel that you were sitting alongside him, watching the Ferrari mechanics turn a pit-stop into a moment of slapstick comedy, or sitting down after the race to a relaxed meal with the drivers. I last saw him at Imola three or four years ago, standing on the balcony above the paddock, watching Jean Alesi talk to his mechanics behind the Ferrari pit. A proper racing driver. Proper red cars. No crowd more to frame that view.

Guardian Crossword No 20,926

Set by Crispa



- Across: 1 Gain the utmost benefit from enterprise (7) 5 Relative to an odious word (7) 9 Card returned to a despicable man (5) 10 Note for an alteration in the time (5) 11 A cross on a church carpet (5) 12 Fish taken first by inexperienced novice (5) 13 A bath can be invigorating — in all probability that's a unanimous feeling (5) 15 Outspoken disapproval by builders about strike (5) 16 Figure the class may be the only one of its kind (5) 19 More mature, yet go hell for leather with little hesitation (5) 21 Better Mediterranean holiday resort, right? (5) 23 Old soldiers aim to join the company (5) 25 Having to do with imprisoned social worker being ashamed (5) 26 A woman reading articles in French, Italian, and English (5) 27 A plant's uprightness (7) 28 Regret holding key information back, and withdraw (7) Down: 1 Catches parents out (7) 2 It's most important that boat carries a painter and medic (5) 3 X used retrospectively (5) 4 Yielding and giving up vehicle and furniture (5) 5 Speak without qualification (5) 6 The janitor's no casual worker (5) 7 A dicit reversed in Portugal (5)

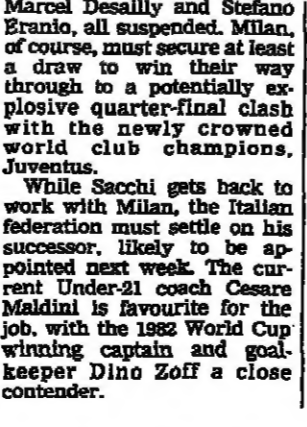
Sacchi's exit a worry for Hoddle

Paddy Agnew in Rome

ROBERTO BAGGIO and Gianluca Vialli may come out of the international wilderness to haunt England now that Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi has finally jumped ship, five months after his sell-by date. Glenn Hoddle always knew his side would face the toughest test yet of their character when the Italians, still smarting from their ignominious Euro 96 exit last summer, visit Wembley for the February 12 World Cup qualifier. At first glance, news of Sacchi's abrupt decision to walk out on the Azzurri and return to his old hunting ground at AC Milan appeared to indicate England might face a team in disarray for what could be the decisive game on the trail to France 98. But the downside — from an English perspective — is that Sacchi's departure could see the return to international colours of the star trio discarded by the coach. The Chelsea striker Vialli, Milan's Baggio and Lazio's Peppo Signori all fell foul of Sacchi, who preferred Stamford Bridge's latest recruit, Gianfranco Zola, to Baggio.

Although no one could say that Sacchi's resignation came as a shock, his decision immediately to climb back on to the managerial tightrope — where he will be renew acquaintance with Baggio — does prompt intriguing questions. Can he re-fine and transform a Milan side who currently appear to have lost their competitive appetite? Even his first test, at home to the Norwegian side Rosenborg Trondheim in the Champions League tomorrow night, is not without dangers since he will be without key elements such as the Liberian George Weah, Frenchman

Marcel Desailly and Stefano Eranio, all suspended. Milan, of course, must secure at least a draw to win their way through to a potentially explosive quarter-final clash with the newly crowned world club champions, Juventus. While Sacchi gets back to work with Milan, the Italian federation must settle on his successor, likely to be appointed next week. The current Under-21 coach Cesare Maldini is favourite for the job, with the 1992 World Cup winning captain and goalkeeper Dino Zoff a close contender.



Sacchi... Milan-bound

Is Britain going down the American road towards a lawyer-driven, jackpot-hungry morass of futile complaints of psychological trauma, fuelled by the vague hope that you might persuade a jury to give you a compensation bonanza or at least intimidate the defending party to pay up out of court? G2 cover story